

CENTERLINE

FALL 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Brian's Blog	2
From Joyce's Desk	3
How's <i>Your</i> Attitude?	4
Workshop Opportunities & Requirements	5
The Value of Simulators	6
Responsibility Flow Chart	7
Driver Education in the News	8
Have You Seen This Sign?	9



JOURNAL OF THE IDAHO DRIVER & TRAFFIC SAFETY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



Published by the Idaho Department of Education
Tom Luna, State Superintendent of Public Instruction



Brian's Blog



In 1994 a retiring teacher pulled me aside for a bit of sage advice. He whispered to me, almost conspiratorially, that teaching driver education was what I should be doing instead of coaching and advising after-school clubs. I signed up for the 4-credit class at B.S.U. that same semester and have taught Driver Ed. since.

My niche was the classroom, in fact, I've been honored with two Teacher of the Year awards — one in Meridian and one in Boise, and Driver Education was no different: I preferred the classroom. Every summer for almost ten years I've taught Driver Ed. at Eagle High School and this last summer I wasn't able to — and I missed it!

I am a techno-geek and much of my success has come from my innovative use of technology in the classroom. I've had an interactive classroom web site since 1995 and love simulators and all things technical. That's what I taught: technology classes. I've been an online educator for Idaho Digital Learning Academy since it began in 2002 and last year worked for months taking the state's Driver Ed. curriculum and turned it into Idaho's first online Driver Ed. program. And while you may have heard me expressing my excitement for this last year, I'd like to state publicly that the online program is just an option for a small population of our students and will never replace or be the same quality as a face to face teacher.

If you've always wondered what it is that the state coordinator *does*, feel free to ask me sometime. The list is too long to include here. My most important job is supporting *all* of you, both public and commercial. I am working to improve the curriculum and instruction materials and will work hard to provide you with what you need, help you be efficient, and help make teaching Driver Education fun, valuable, and safe! We have to work *together* to help our students be safer drivers. All of us are counting on that!

So drop me an email, give me a call, or stop by my office here in Boise if you have the time. I'd love to see or meet you, and would love to hear what's on your mind regarding Driver Education in Idaho.

Please note that statute 33-1706 states that, (school districts) "...shall submit a report to the State Department of Education not later than forty-five (45) days after completion of the course..." We are having districts turn in their reimbursement forms months, if not years after a class ends! By statute, we cannot reimburse for that. Please make sure your bookkeeper is aware of this.

FROM JOYCE'S DESK

Reminders....

This page includes important reminders on paperwork and procedures that many of you deal with on a daily basis.

Many of these reminders will aid in expediting approvals, procedures, and also allow us to keep in close contact with you all year round!



Thanks for your continued support and please let me know how I can further assist you!

Joyce Alexander

Driver Education Administrative Assistant

jaalexander@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6850

Our WEBSITE HAS CHANGED!

The entire State Department of Education website has undergone construction and is now complete, all of the same information can still be found on our page, but the web address is a little different, and the look is even better than before ! The new URL is www.sde.idaho.gov/drivereducation

PLEASE Visit our webpage and fill out this form if you have not already done so!

Some of you have filled out the Contact Info Update Form, if you haven't, please take the time to swing by our website and fill it out so that we can update your addresses, phone numbers, and school information. Having good contact information is vital to keeping you up to date and informed! We'd like to eventually be able to send out this newsletter, law changes, and other information via email!

Commercial Schools:

Annual reports are due each year by August 1st. (This year the deadline was extended to August 15th due to departmental changes). We had 41/42 schools report this year. Please mark August 1st on your calendar for next year!

Public Schools:

Please note that when turning in Instructor Authorization Request Forms, the physical expiration portion of the form must be filled in and up to date prior to being sent to our department.

"Approximate date of next physical", "Expired Physical" and "Physical I-O-U's" so to speak will not be accepted. We need proof that a doctor has given that instructor the go-ahead to drive with students

HOW IS YOUR ATTITUDE?

If you don't know me, or haven't met me yet, I really do try to be all about the positive. Enthusiastic, helpful, excited about what we're doing in Driver Education and what we can do to make it better! Is there any other way to be?

Yes. Unfortunately there are those who are just the opposite: negative, talking bad behind other's backs, disrespectful, unprofessional, careless, and what I've experienced a lot these last few years—bad-mouthing others, new ideas, and change.

In 1994 when I took Driver Ed. 101 and 102 the instructor asked us to stand up if we didn't believe that the most important element of driving is ATTITUDE. I was the only student who stood up. I thought it was all about skill and attitude had *nothing* to do with it. Boy was I wrong!

I now know that it is *all* about attitude. Every driving behavior comes from an attitude. If we, as Driver Education instructors, can model and emphasize the correct driving attitudes, we might be able to improve driving and save lives!

I find it deeply concerning that, in only my first month as state coordinator, I have listened to commercial companies bad-mouthing each other, instructors talking negatively about the state department of education (and Tom Luna), instructors adamant that technology is good for other subjects but *not* Driver Education, and everything in between. Don't get me wrong—I'm here to field your complaints and your true feelings and ideas on things - but there's a way to voice your concerns while remaining positive. Negativity can destroy friendships, marriages, departments, programs, etc.

My point is this: if we are to hold our students accountable for their attitudes, shouldn't we hold each other accountable for ours?

If we are grading our students on their attitude, and expecting only positive - in fact, keeping them from their goal of getting their driver's license if they fail at it - then shouldn't we be the model of what a positive attitude looks like? *We are all part of the Idaho Driver Education community—but many of us are acting like playground enemies.*

My challenge to you is this: be the most positive person everyone around you knows. You'll be amazed at the results.

Brian



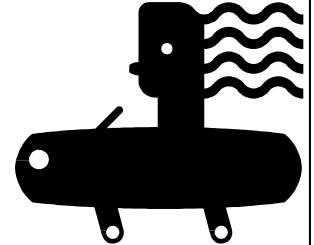
UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

SDE Spring Workshop Schedule:

Mark your calendar now to set aside time for this fun-filled, action-packed workshop! This year we are going to a one-day-only Saturday format to reduce cost, be more efficient and energetic, and allow more teachers and commercial instructors the opportunity to participate!

February 7-8 Boise A Ameritel Inn Town Square
 February 21-22 Boise B Ameritel Inn Boise Town Square
 February 25-26 Nampa Holiday Inn Express
 March 6-7 Twin Falls Best American Suites
 April 14-15 Lewiston Red Lion
 April 21-22 Idaho Falls Ameritel Inn
 May 7-8 Pocatello Ameritel Inn
 May 15-16 Couer d'Alene Ameritel Inn

1. Must live at least 50 miles from the DE workshop closest to your home address. (i.e. if your schedule does not allow for time to attend the workshop closest to your home and you have to travel 50 miles or more to a workshop in another region of Idaho, you will be responsible for your travel and hotel costs)
2. Only **hotel rooms** will be provided. No substitutions for other arrangements will be made (i.e. motor-home travel reimbursement, gas charges, etc.)
3. DE Department must receive notice **at least 4 weeks prior** to the starting date of the workshop to be attended that you need hotel accommodations.
4. No shows or cancellations occurring less than 48 hours in advance will result in the applicant being billed for any charges incurred.



2nd Annual IAPDB Workshop(s)

November: Board Meeting
 April: Workshop(s) TBA
 For info. Call 939-7663

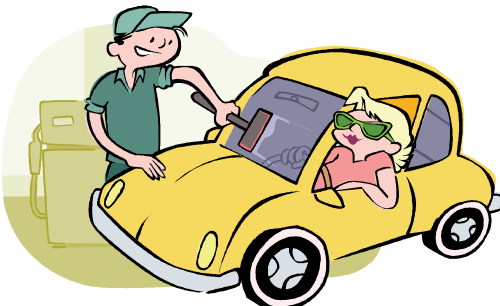
3rd Annual Eiguren Winter Workshop

January 20, 2008

Eiguren Driving School / SDE
 3170 Overland Road, Boise ID

\$15

Provides eight (8) hours of professional development for public and commercial instructors.
 Register by calling 345-8825



THE VALUE OF SIMULATORS IN DRIVER EDUCATION

Why Choose to use

simulation?

With simulators, we can put drivers in dangerous situations without putting them in danger. Simulators can create unique or dangerous situations in a manner that you could not or would not create behind the wheel of an automobile.

When facing a dangerous situation in the real world, it is not as important what our students know, but what they *do*. Simulation allows them to practice what to do if a dangerous situation should present itself, giving them the best possible chance of surviving or avoiding a crash. If it were your own child, would you want to give them time on a simulator to experience a variety of driving challenges and situations? I know I would. And will.

What about students who are impaired in some way? Wouldn't you feel more comfortable seeing what they can do on a simulator before taking them out for a real drive? And students who need just a bit more practice before turning them loose? And then there's the real reason this idea may prove valuable in Idaho: many of our students will never get *any* exposure to certain driving environments during Driver Education or the supervised driving period: freeways, lane changes, urban situations, mountain passes, snow, black ice, slow moving vehicles, and more. Add to that advanced maneuvers and "accident" avoidance, and we're talking about a tool that could revolutionize the way we teach, and learn, Driver Education.

In Idaho, three of the six hours of in-car instruction can be done using a simulator. But it takes 3 hours of simulation to equal 1 hour of driving, so 9 hours of simulation could be used in our program. Should we allow that? In my opinion: No! Could we use simulators to *enhance* our program and improve safety? Certainly! **Plan to attend spring workshops this year to learn how you can get your hands on one!**



RESPONSIBILITY FLOW CHART

Who Does What in Driver Education?

Tom Luna—Superintendent of Schools. Supervises the entire Idaho State Department of Education.

Nick Smith—Supervises the Division of School Support Services, including the Driver Education division.

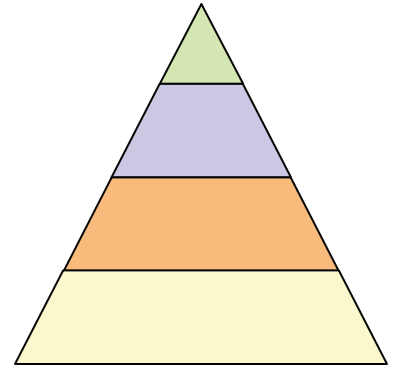
Brian Johns—Idaho Driver Education Coordinator. Supervises all Idaho DE programs, including instructor training, professional development, mentoring, budgeting, instructor and school reviews and approvals, standards, and statutes.

Joyce Alexander—Administrative Assistant. Processes reimbursements and all school and instructor paperwork, schedules workshops, manages video library, mail, phone calls, and data entry.

District/School Coordinators—submit “Annual Program Plan” form to SDE 30 days prior to class start date. Hire instructors as needed. Submit “Instructor Approval” form to SDE for all instructors who will work in the district. Coordinate everything having to do with Driver’s Ed. vehicles. Submit student list to SDE within 10 days after each class starts. Monitor student payments at each school. Schedule class times and facilities. Pick up permits from local driver licensing office. Submit final student list with pass/fail/transfers listed to local driver licensing agency within 3 days after end date. Return any failed permits to driver licensing within 3 days after end date. Submit reimbursement form and copy of final list to SDE within 45 days after end date.

Classroom Instructors—verify all students have permits before class begins, verify permit numbers and student information is correct on student list. Submit student list to school or district coordinator within first few days of class start date. Keep parents up to date on student progress. Communicate regularly with the in-car instructor(s). Teach lessons that follow state standards.

In-Car Instructors—Communicate with classroom teacher and parents. Drive students only if their permit is in the vehicle. Have pre-arranged routes that follow state standards and the classroom scope and sequence. Sign permits and mark PASS or FAIL on them, give passed permits to parents to begin the supervised instruction period and return failed permits to the driver licensing office.



Understanding
each other's
roles can help us
all do our jobs
better.

In **1974** there were 318 fatalities in Idaho automobile wrecks (14 train-related, 21 pedestrians, 6 bicyclists, 20 motorcyclists...the rest mostly 1 and 2-car wrecks) compared to 267 fatalities in **2006**. The population of Idaho in 1974 was about 750,000. Today it is about 1.5 million. While the population has *doubled*, the fatalities have dropped 16%! Might be a good topic of discussion with your students. What caused these numbers?

DRIVER EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT: FRED ENDERS

The Coeur d'Alene Press published an article August 24th about one of our instructors up north: Fred Enders. This article highlighted Fred's inspirational dedication to teaching students to drive.

In 1988 he began teaching Driver Education for the Coeur d'Alene School District. In 1993 he started

Panhandle Driving Education School and in 1997 started doing that full time.

Enders estimates that he's taught 7-8,000 students to drive during his career, between the ages of 14-1/2 to 82.

Enders offers a six week program with drives twice a

week and classes twice a week.

Panhandle Driving Education School charges \$300 per student and can be reached at 664-3308.



ONLINE DE CLASS ALLOWS STUDENTS TO WORK AROUND THEIR SCHEDULES

The Lewiston Tribune August 26th, 2007 by Jodi Walker

Family vacations have been altered and summer work eliminated or reduced so teens can learn to drive. Thirty hours of classroom work and six hours of driving time can take a chunk out of summer. But five Grangeville students found a balance this summer by taking the classroom portion of driver's education online.

Drivers education is the newest course through the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA), the only state-accredited, state-created online classroom in Idaho. Eighty-seven percent of Idaho's high schools use the online courses to fill out curriculum and offer remedial or advanced courses. Those numbers are growing. In

2006, 1 million students nationwide were enrolled in online learning, said Donna Vakili, director of Boise-based IDLA.

The academy was created by the Idaho Legislature in 2002 as an aid for schools across the state. Students use the online courses to pick up classes they've failed, study subjects not offered at their schools or to take required classes to free their schedules for electives such as band, shop, art and more. Others use it to get ahead and graduate early.

"Some schools use it very much to enrich their curriculum," said Mont Hibbard, regional coordinator for IDLA. He is based in Lewiston and is retired from the Lewiston School District.

The growth of IDLA and the creation of classes such as

driver education are signs the online school is doing exactly what it was intended to do, said Vakili. "We are part of the local school."

Just because the class is online doesn't mean it is the easy way out. "This it's not a quick fix for getting your driver's license," said Patty Cox, site coordinator for Grangeville's online driver's education course. The 30 students who took the traditional class this summer finished in July, she said. The online students took their classroom final examination Aug. 20. The course is intense, she said, requiring a lot of reading and essay writing as well as an eight-hour orientation about taking an online class. "Each week there is a certain amount of stuff that has to be done," Cox said. "We had some that dropped because they

thought it was going to be a quick fix." Aside from the online work, there is still the requirement of driving practice with one of the district's qualified driving instructors. "It is a benefit to the parents," said Superintendent Davis. Students from outlying areas, especially Elk City or Riggins, don't have to travel to Kooskia or Grangeville to attend the 30 hours of class time. "If this goes well, I hope we will be able to do some of it again," Davis said.



NOTE:

All 5 Grangeville students passed the online DE course, 4 with As and 1 with a B.

CENTERLINE

Have you seen this sign?



Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status in any educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. (Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.)

It is the policy of the Idaho State Department of Education not to discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment practices.

Inquiries regarding compliance with this nondiscriminatory policy may be directed to State Superintendent of Public Instruction, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0027, (208) 332-6800, or to the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Seattle Office, U.S. Department of Education, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle WA 98174-1099, (206) 220-7880; FAX (206) 220-7887.

DRIVER EDUCATION
P. O. BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0027



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO: